

STATEMENT TO  
[First Reprint]  
**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 39**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Senator SMITH)

ADOPTED: NOVEMBER 14, 2016

These floor amendments would limit the dedication of moneys derived from all settlements and judicial and administrative awards collected by the State in connection with claims based on environmental contamination to only those moneys collected relating to natural resource damages. In addition, the amendments would authorize the use of the dedicated moneys to pay the legal or other costs incurred by the State to pursue settlements and judicial and administrative awards relating to natural resource damages.

The amendments would prioritize, in the following order, the use of the dedicated moneys by the State to repair, restore, or replace damaged or lost natural resources of the State, or to permanently protect the natural resources of the State, in connection with the claim for which the money was recovered: (1) in the immediate area in which the damage to the natural resources occurred; or (2) in the same water region in which the damage to the natural resources occurred. If no reasonable project is available to satisfy the first or second priority for the use of the moneys, or if there are moneys available after satisfying the first or second priority, moneys may be used by the State to repair, restore, or replace damaged or lost natural resources of the State, or permanently protect the natural resources of the State, without geographic constraints.

Finally, the amendments increase the amount of dedicated moneys that may be used to pay for related administrative costs from five to 10 percent of the moneys appropriated pursuant to the paragraph.